

STEPS TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program

The Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program is designed to provide financial assistance to individuals who complete technical education programs that lead to employment in high-demand technical fields in Arkansas. Persons who qualify for the program may be eligible for student loan forgiveness of up to \$2,500 per year for up to four years. This program was created in 1999, only loans taken for the 1999-2000 academic year and after are eligible for forgiveness.

Here are the steps to apply

- Be a citizen of the United States or permanent resident alien.
- Attend an Arkansas postsecondary public or private vocational technical school, technical institute, comprehensive lifelong learning center, two-year college, or four-year college or university that is approved by the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities, the Higher Education Coordinating Board or the State Board of Private Career Education to offer training in the designated technical field.
- Complete the student financial aid application process at the institution you wish to attend. You must receive a student loan to be eligible for this program.
- Enroll in a technical education program designated by the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities as eligible for the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program. The financial aid director at the institution you plan to attend can provide you information on designated technical education programs at that institution.

A complete list of programs by institution can also be obtained from high school counselors or the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. The list of programs is also posted on the Department of Workforce Education web site at <http://dwe.arkansas.gov>.

- File the *Intent to Apply* form while you are in school. Beginning in the 2002-2003 academic year, students must submit this form as soon as they declare a major. Based on availability of funds, applicants could be accepted based on the timely submission of this form. The *Intent to Apply* is a non-binding document that indicates your intent to apply for the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program upon completing your program of study.
- Complete your technical education program and be awarded a diploma, certificate, or associate's or baccalaureate degree.
- Submit the application form for the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program within six months after program completion. The financial aid director at the institution you attended can provide an application form, or it may be obtained from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education web site, <http://dwe.arkansas.gov>, or by contacting the department at 501/682-1699.
- Upon selection for the loan forgiveness program, you will be mailed a loan forgiveness packet containing these forms: Loan Verification, Registrar Verification, Employment Information and Change In Status. You must submit these forms to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education to be eligible for the loan forgiveness program.
- You must be employed full-time in Arkansas in the high-demand technical field for which you received training. You must complete one year of qualified employment for each academic year that you received a student loan.
- You are eligible to have one year of your loan amount up to \$2,500 forgiven for each academic year that you received a student loan. The duration of your eligibility is determined by the length of the designated technical education program you completed.
- The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education will directly reimburse your lending authority for the amount of your loan forgiveness payment for each year of your loan forgiveness eligibility. If you present the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education a "Paid In Full" Promissory Note from your lending authority your loan repayment may be paid directly to you for the amount of your loan forgiveness for each year of eligibility.